

OUTPUT FACT SHEET

Strategies and action plans

Version 2

Project index number and acronym	CE1578 CityWaterCircles
Output number and title	O.T3.1.1 Integrated urban strategies for introducing and boosting circular urban water management
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	PP-5 - Maribor Water Supply Company (MBVOD)
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/CWC.html
Delivery date	December 2021

Summary description of the strategy/action plan (developed and/or implemented), explaining its main objectives and transnational added value

FUA-level strategy on integrated circular urban water management including targeted action plan is primarily aimed to ensure public supply of drinking water in sufficient quantity and appropriate quality to all residents. Other complementary challenges defined were securing balanced investment of funds for infrastructure, replacement and upgrading of infrastructure, regular maintenance of wells, implementing separate drainage of meteoric and municipal wastewater in order to avoid overloading the sewerage network (construction of a smart sewerage system), reducing the intrusion of pollutants into groundwater, determining the causes of the presence of individual pollutants in water, reducing pharmacologically active substances (drug residues as waste) in wastewater, implementing green infrastructure among the existing gray, using ecoremediation for sustainable restoration and protection of water areas, ensuring sustainable maintenance of water and coastal lands, informing and raising awareness of the population (using rainwater instead of drinking water, etc.).

To achieve the main challenge addressed, the document has defined the main objective that should be the guiding principles in future FUA-level water-related development: identification of rainwater measures and investments for utilizations of potentials related to rainwater management. Within this objective, several sub-objectives were proposed: harvesting, infiltration, retention, green roofs / facades, evaporation, landscape irrigation, reuse in the households, non-potable urban use (fire protection and air conditioning), recreational/environmental uses (lakes and ponds, fisheries and snowmaking).

The document has been developed with all relevant local stakeholders, including the Public Holding Company Maribor consisting of all utility companies and Regional Development Agency (RDA-PM) covering over 40 municipalities. RDA-PM has proposed to the municipality of Maribor the official adoption of the document.

NUTS region(s) concerned by the strategy/action plan (relevant NUTS level)

Country (NUTS 0): SI
Country (NUTS 1): SI0, Slovenija
Region (NUTS 2): SI01, Vzhodna Slovenija
Sub-region (NUTS 3): SI012, Podravska

Expected impact and benefits of the strategy/action plan for the concerned territories and target groups

The VISION of the document is focusing on promoting reusing of purified wastewater within peoples' own household or industrial process, encouraging the use of rainwater and stormwater to replace fresh water used for non-potable use, and to provide sustainable water supply and maintain and even increase the quality of water sources.

In an intensive co-creation process, the main positive impacts derived by this document were envisioned that would ensure accessible and sufficient quantities of healthy drinking water for every citizen for potable use, protect water resources against pollution and excessive use and elimination of water losses, elimination or remediation of existing sources of groundwater pollution, provide sufficient groundwater levels, introduction of new urban water retention measures, NBS to increase climate and ecosystem resilience, prevent run-off of untreated municipal wastewater and other types of polluted water into watercourses and existing surface waters.

The document will be adopted by the municipality foreseeably in the fall of 2022.

Sustainability of the developed and/or implemented strategy/action plan and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The dire combination of climate change, greater CE climate vulnerability and extremely high urbanisation rates have resulted in significantly decreased quality of urban environment in CE cities burdened particularly by water-related issues. The document at hand comprehensively addresses the majority, if not all, said challenges faced by CE cities and presents a perfect guidance for cities to tackle each and every one, making it easily transferable across the Programme area. The document's use is not limited only to (CE) cities, but also to other public or private stakeholders that aim to implement sustainable next generation water-related measures in order to alleviate climate pressures resulting in unavailability of resources, depleted nature and economically unsustainable prices, which is particularly important since access to clean water in sufficient quantities should be considered as a human right and not a privilege.

This document presents a detailed upgrade of the Municipal Environmental Protection Plan 2021-2030 (MEPP), which generally addresses FUA-level water-related issues by analyzing in-depth the issues and proposing targeted measures. The document is to be adopted by the City Council and its progress (implementation) will be monitored through a specially designed MEPP monitoring tool of all proposed measures.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links
If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

DELIVERABLES AND WEB-LINKS:

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Circular-Urban-Water-Management-Strategies.html>

D. T3.2.5 - MARIBOR FUA-LEVEL TARGETED ACTION PLAN (AP)

D. T3.3.4 - MARIBOR FUA-LEVEL STRATEGY ON INTEGRATED CIRCULAR URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT INCLUDING TARGETED ACTION PLAN